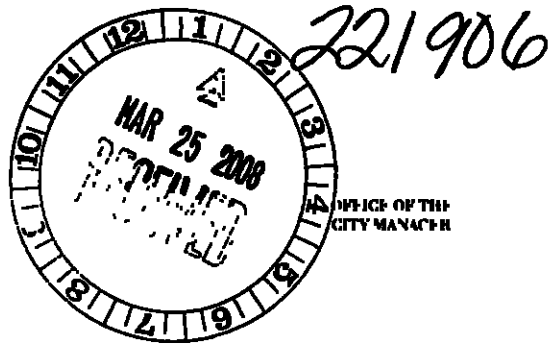




CITY OF MARION
P.O. Drawer 700
Marion, North Carolina 28752



March 7, 2008

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

Via fax 202-565-9004
Original via mail

MAR 25 2008

**Part of
Public Record**

Mr Vernon A Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

**Re: Norfolk Southern Railway Company Abandonment in McDowell County,
North Carolina, STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 266X) – Request for Extension of
Time**

Dear Secretary Williams

This request for an extension of time to negotiate an agreement is filed on behalf of the City of Marion, North Carolina, which is a political subdivision of the State of North Carolina, hereinafter referred to as "Proponent "

Proponent has previously requested issuance of a Public Use Condition as well as an Interim Trail Use Condition on property which extends from railroad milepost SB 205 0 to railroad milepost SB 208 5, a distance of 3 5 miles, located in the City of Marion, McDowell County, North Carolina The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No AB-290 (Sub-No 266X) By decision and notice of interim trail use or abandonment (NITU) served on July 7, 2006, the proceeding was reopened The Board granted a 180-day period for the Proponent to negotiate an agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway (NSR) for interim trail use /rail banking and for a public use condition, the expiration date being January 4, 2007

On October 17, 2007, the Board granted a 180-day extension for the Proponent to negotiate an agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway (NSR) for interim trail use /rail banking and for a public use condition, the expiration date being April 1, 2008

Proponent and its designated representatives have attempted with due diligence and in a timely manner to secure such an agreement with the NSR The NSR has performed an appraisal for the property on which an agreement hinges is presently being secured and an initial meeting has been held In light of the approaching deadline and the need for further negotiations, the Proponent respectfully requests a six (6) month extension of the negotiating period, which would set a new expiration date of October 1, 2008

By my signature below, I certify service of this Request for an Extension of Time upon Norfolk Southern, James R Paschall, Senior General Attorney, Norfolk Southern

Corporation, Three Commercial Place, Norfolk, Virginia 23510 by U S Mail, postage pre-paid, first class, this 7th day of March, 2008

Please contact me at (828) 652-3551 if you have any questions, or if you require any additional information

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Boyette', with a stylized, cursive script.

Bob Boyette
City Manager
City of Marion

cc Mayor/City Council
James R Paschall, Senior General Attorney, Norfolk Southern Corporation
Jac Whatley, Martin-McGill